

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 071111Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3572
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

S E C R E T LAGOS 10248

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP

REF: (A) STATE 196620, (B) STATE 194949

1. IN VIEW OF LATE RECEIPT OF REFTEL B AND CON'S TOTAL CONCENTRATION ON ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE, EMBOFF NOT SUCCESSFUL IN BRIEFING MEA ON SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP BEFORE CONFERENCE.
2. AFTER PRESENTATION BY EMBOFF, DEP DIR OF MEA'S ASIA AND THE PACIFIC DEPARTMENT, ARENU L. AGBE EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE AT UNUSUAL EXPERIENCE OF HAVING U.S. OFFICIAL APPEAR IN HIS DEPARTMENT AND GRATIFICATION ON BEING INFORMED ABOUT SECRETARY'S TRIP.
3. GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS, AGBE ASKED WHETHER U.S.

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WOULD INSIST THAT PLO RECOGNIZE RIGHT OF ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE AS A STATE IN SCENARIO THAT WOULD INCLUDE PLO AS MEMBER OF UNITED ARAB DELEGATION (REFTEL B, PP 4). HE THEN DWELT ON U.S.'S RELATIONSHIP WITH NEW "HAWKISH" ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, QUESTIONING WHETHER U.S. HAS ANY LEVERAGE IN GETTING ISRAEL TO AGREE TO PLO PARTICIPATION

IN ANY FORM.

4. AGBE NOTED WITH APPROVAL U.S. POSITION ON SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY BUT CLAIMED TO SEE INCONSISTENCY IN U.S. ACTING AS MIDDLEMAN WHILE CONTINUING TO ARM AND "PROP UP" ISRAEL. WHEN REMINDED THAT U.S. PURSUES SAME POLICY ON ARMS SALES WITH EGYPT AS WITH ISRAEL, HE SUGGESTED ISRAEL MUST VIEW IMPROVED US-ARAB RELATIONS WITH TREPIDATION, FURTHER DECREASING U.S. LEVERAGE WITH ISRAEL.

5. AGBE ASKED ABOUT EXTENT AND DEPTH OF CONSULTATION BETWEEN U.S. AND USSR IN THEIR ROLES AS COCHAIRMAN OF GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE SAID NIGERIA ORIGINALLY VIEWED COMBINATION AS WELL-BALANCED BECAUSE U.S. WAS SUPPORTING ISRAEL AND USSR, THE ARAB COUNTRIES. NOW THAT EGYPT WAS ORIENTED TOWARD U.S., LEAVING SYRIA UNDER USSR PATRONAGE, HE FELT US AND USSR COULD NOT AFFORD TO TAKE ANY ACTIONS AS COCHAIRMAN THAT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THOSE COUNTRIES.

6. ON SUBJECT OF LEBANON, AGBE ASKED ABOUT SYRIAN REACTION TO U.S.'S STATED POLICY OF WILLINGNESS TO EQUIP UNITS SENT BY LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO SOUTH. HE REFERRED TO TRI-BORDER AREA AND AGAIN RAISED POINT OF ARMS BEING
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SUPPLIED TO SYRIA BY USSR.

7. REACTING TO INFORMATION THAT CONCERNED STATES AGREED TO SEND FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES TO NEW YORK PRIOR TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AGBE EXPRESSED HIS DOUBTS THAT U.S. WOULD SUCCEED IN ITS ROLE AS BROKER IN BRINGING TWO SIDES TO NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT.

8. ACTION REQUEST. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE TALKING POINTS ON EXTENT AND DEPTH OF CONSULTATION BETWEEN U.S. AND USSR AS COCHAIRMAN IN EVENT QUESTION RAISED AGAIN.
WYMAN

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NNN

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